

THE
Pleasant Conceits of Old
HOBSON, the merry Londoner,
full of humorous discourses, and witty
merryments, whereat the quickest wits may laugh,
and the wiser sort take pleasure.



Printed at London for William Gilliflower dwelling
Gilt-spur Street at the signe of the Bible, 1640.

K
To the right Worshipfull, Sir *William*
Stone Knight Mercer to the Queenes
most excellent Majestie.

YOur friendly disposition (right Worship-
full) giving grace to the well meaning
minde, hath emboldened me amongst others,
to testifie that good will in outward shew,
which my heart of long time hath secretly
bore to your Worship; and now taking op-
portunity, I present to your favourable cen-
sure, this small book, containing many quick
flashes of the witty jests of old *Hobson* the
merry Londoner, lately a Citizen of good es-
timation. And I thinke not altogether for-
gotten of your Worship: Receive this little
Treatise (I beseech you) with favour answer-
able to my good will, & as your leisure shall
serve, bestow now and then a little reading
thereof, which if it please you to doe, I doubt
not but you will like well of the labour, and
besides the honest recreation which it offord-
eth, apply what your worship maketh choise
of, unto your private pleasure: and this wi-
shing your prosperity, acceptance to this my
gift, and opinion of the giver: I conclude, ho-
ping that my honest wish shall not be yoid of
a happy successe.

*Your worships most humbly
to command,*

Richard Johnson.

traces nothing for her back

T H E

Pleasant life of old Hobson

the merry Londoner, full of humerous
discourses, and witty merriments, where-
at the quickest wits may laugh,
and the wiser sort take pleasure.

Of Master Hobsons description.

In the beginning of Quene Elizabeths
most happy Reigne our late deceased
Soveraigne, under whose peasefull go-
vernment long flourished this our Country of
England, therelived in the Citie of London a
merry Citizen, named old Hobson a Haber-
dasher of finall wares, dwelling at the lower
end of Cheape-side, in the Poultrey, as well
known through this part of England, as a
Sergeant knowes the Counter gate: he was
a homely plaine man, most commonly wea-
ring a buttoned Cap close to his eares, a short
Belt, a girt about his middle, and a paire of
slippers upon his fete of an ancient fashion,
as for his wealth it was answerable to the bet-
ter sort of our Citizens, but of so merry a dis-
position that his equall therein is hardly to be
found: hereat let the pleasant disposed peo-
ple laugh, and the more graver in carriage take

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no exceptions, for here are meriments without hurt, and humorous jests labouring upon wisdom: reade willingly, but scoffe not spitefully, for old Hobson spent his daies merrily.

2. Of Master Hobsons proverbs.

N Ot many years since, there was Sir John Baynes. (by the common voice of the City) chosen Sheriffe of London, which man in former times had been Mr. Hobsons Prentise, and riding along the Streets with other Aldermen, about the Cittie business, was saluted by M. Hobson in this manner, Wones a me man what a clock horse-knave, and thy Master a foot here's the world turn'd upside down: Sir John hearing this his Masters merry salutation, passed along with a pleasant smile, making no answer at all, upon which slight regard, M. Hobson took occasion to say as followeth: here's pride rides on horseback, whilstt humilitie goes a foot, in speaking these words came foure other Aldermen riding after Master Sheriffe, whose names were these: Alderman Ramsley, Alderman Bond, Alderman Beecher and Alderman Cooper, at whose passage by he made this pleasant rime.

1. Ramsley the rich, 2. Bond the flour,
3. Beecher the gentleman. 4. & Cooper the
lout.

This

of old Hobson.

This pleasant Rime so sodainly spoken by
M. Hobson, is to this day, accounted for his
Proverbe in London.

3. Of M. Hobson and John Tawny-coat.

M After Hobson being a Haberdasher of
small wares (as I said before) and his
shop on a time full of customers, his negligent
prentises earlly credited a Kentish Pedler
with 10. pounds of commodities, neither
knowing his name, nor his dwelling place,
which oversight when M. Hobson understood,
and noting the simplicitie of his servants, and
their forgetfulness, demanded what apparell
the fellow had on: marry Sir (quoth one of
the Prentises) he had a Tawny-coate then
(quoth M. Hobson) put down John Tawney-
coate, and so was the Pedler by the name of
John Tawny-coate, entred to the booke; a-
bout a moneth after, the same Pedler came
again to London to buy ware, and comming
to M. Hobson in a Russet coat, willed him to
turne over his booke for ten pounds that one
John Rowlands owed him: Ten pounds (quod
M. Hobson) that John Rowlands oweth me,
I remember no such man, bones a good knave
thou owest me none: But I do, said the Ped-
ler: whereupon the booke was searched, but
no John Rowlands was to be found. I thinke
thou

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thou art mad (quoth Hobson) for thou owest me nothing : but I doe, quoth the Pedler, and will pay it. Being in this strife a long time, one of his servants said that he had found in the beek, such a debt by one John Tawny-coar, That is my selfe, replied the Pedler. I was then John Tawnycoar though I am now John Ruffet-coar, so paid he ten pounds by the same name to M. Hobson, and receiued twentie more upon his own word and name of John Rowlands, the which twentie pound he shortly after paid for suretyship, and so by his over-kind heart, paying other mens debts he grew so poore, and into such necessity, that he was forced to maintaine his living by hedging and ditching, and other such like countrey labours : within a while after this, M. Hobson comming into Kent to seeke up some desperate debts, he came to Dartford, where finding this poore man ditching for a Shoat a day, in pittie of him said, how now John Tawny-coar, bones a God man thou canst never pay with this poore labour, come home knave, come home, I will trust thee with twentie pounds more, follow thy old trade of pedling againe, and one day thou mayst pay me all.

Thus the Pedler had new credit of M. Hobson, by which good meanes he grew rich, that in time he bought his freedome of London, and

of old Hobson.

and therein grew so wealthy a Citizen that he became one of the Masters of the Hospitall, and when he dyed he proved a good benefactor to the same house.

4 How Master Hobson called the Lord Maior of London knave by craft.

MAfter Hobson in his youthfull time having nothing to dinner on a day but bread and chæse, good bære and a red herring, and being merrily disposed to jest, came unto his doore to sit, where he said to a Sergeant of London, I have din'd this day (quoth he) as well as my Lord Maior: the Sergeant hearing this and being a pick-thanke companion, went and certified his Lordship thereof, who immediately sent for M. Hobson, being then a man but of meane estate, who no sooner being come into his presence, but his Lordship would needs know the cause of his comparison clapping twenty knaves on poore Hobsons shoulders I mean not Sergeants, but knaves of my Lord Maiors o'wn making? I will teach thee knave (quoth his Lordship) how to use my name in thy comparison, and not in thy beggerly dinners, and drunken banquets to compare with me, and whilest you live to except me in any thing: and thereupon sent

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M. Hobson to the Counter, where he lay some two or three dayes without bayle : but at last being set at liberty, he met with the same Sergeant againe : whom he saluted in this manner, well met Sergeant (quoth he) by thy meanes I am commanded to except my Lord Maior in all things and so I will, for I thinke in my conscience, thou art the veriest knave in all London, except my Lord Maior. Thus M. Hobson most cunningly called my Lord Maior and the Officer, both knaves.

5. How Master Hobson made a light banquet for his company.

UPon a time M. Hobson invited very solemnly the whole Libery of his company to a light banquet, and for the same provided the greatest Tavern in all London in a readinesse : the appointed houre being come, the Cittizens repaired thither richly attired the better to grace M. Hobsons banquet, but expecting great cheere and good entertainment, they were all utterly disappointed : for what found they there thinke you : Nothing on my word, but each one a cup of wine and a manchet of bread on his trencher : and some five hundred candles lighted about the Roome, which in my minde was a very light banquet
both

of old Hobson.

both for the belly and the eye : by this merry Jest, he gain'd such love of his company, that he borrowed gratis out of the hall, a hundred and fiftie pound for two yeare.

6. How Master Hobson chaulkt his Prentises the way to the Church.

EUermore when M. Hobson had any busi- nesse abroad his Prentices would either be at the Taberne filling their heads with wine, or at the Dagger in Cheap-side, cram- ming their bellies with minst pies : but above all other times it was their common custome (as London Prentices use) to follow their Masters upou Sundayes to the church doore, and then to leave them, and hie unto the Ta- bern, which M. Hobson on a time perceiuing one of his men so to doe, demanded at his com- ming home, what the Preachers Tert was. Sir (quoth the fellow) I was not at the be- ginning. What was in the middle, quoth M. Hobson) Sir, quoth the fellow, then was I sleepe : said M. Hobson againe, what was then the conclusion, then replyed his servant, I was come Sir away before the end : by which means he knew well he was not there, but rather in some Tipling house, offending Gods Majestie, and the lawes of the Land : there-

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therefore the next Sunday morning after, M^r Hobson called all his servants together, and in the sight of many of his neighbors and their Apprentises, tooke a piece of chawke and chawked them all the way along to the Church directly, which proved a great shame to his own servants, but a good example to all others of like condition, after this was there never the like misdemeanour used amongst them.

7. How Master Hobson hung out a Lanthorn and a Candle-light.

In the beginning of Q. Elizabeths Reigne when the order of hanging out Lanthorn and candle-light was first brought up, the Beadle of the ward where M^r Hobson dwelt in a dark evening went crying upon and down, hang out your Lanthornes hang out your Lanthornes saying no other words. Whereupon M^r Hobson took an empty Lanthorn, and according to the Beadles call hung it out; this stout by the Lord Mayor was taken in ill part, and for the same offence was Master Hobson sent to the Counter, but being Released the next night the Beadle thinking to ammend his call, cried with a loud voyce, hang out your lanthorn and candle, hang out your Lanthorne and candle. M^r Hobson hereupon hung out a Lanthorn and

of old Hobson.

er, and a candle unlighted as the Beadle againe
r, and commanded, whereupon he was sent againe
to the Counter : but y next night, the Beadle
thaweing better advised, cryed hang out your lan-
rch di horn and candle-light, which M. Hobson did,
is ow to his great commendations, which cry of lan-
pers o horn and candle-light is in right manner used
er the to this day.

8. How M Hobson baird the
Devill with a dogge,

thorn
N Ot far; from M. Hobsons house, there
dwelled one of these cunning men, other-
etigne wise called fortune-tellers, such cusing com-
horn anions to this day. (by their crafts) make
Beadle simple women believe how they can tell what
a dar husbands they shall have, how many children,
ing ou how many swee-hearts and such like : if goods
go, nes e stole, who hath them with promise to help
Hobson hem to their losses againe. with many other
g to th ecessfull illusions : To this wise man, (as
by th ome termes him) goes M. Hobson not to
for th eape any benefit by his crafty cunning, but
to th o make a jest and a tryall of his experience :
t nigh o causing one of his servants to lead a masty
l, erpe dogge after him, staying at the cunning mans
on an ore with the dogge in his hand : up goes M.
candle, obson to the wise man, requesting his skill,
thorn o he had lost ten pound, lately taken from
an

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by theebes, but when and how he knew not well, the cunning man knowing M. Hobson to be one of his neighbors, and a man of a good reputation, fell (as he made shew) to conjuring and casting of figures, and after a few words of incantation, as his common use was, he took a very large faire looking glasse, and bad M. Hobson looke in the same, but not to cast his eyes backward in any case: the which he did, and therein saw the picture of a hogge and a large Dr with two broad hornes on his head: the which was no other wise, but (as he had often deceitfully shewed to others) a conjuring fellow like the cunning man himself cleathed in an Ores Hide, which fellow he maintained as his servant to blinde peoples eyes withall, and to make them believe he could shew them the Devill at his pleasure in a glasse. This vision M. Hobson perceiving, and guessing at the knavery thereof, gave whistle for his dogge, which then stayed below at the doore in his mans keeping which whistle being no sooner heard, but the dogge ran up stairs to his Master, as he had been made and presently fastned upon the pore fellow in the Ores hide, and tore him as it was pitifull to see: the cunning man cryed, for the passion of God take of your dogge: no (quoth M. Hobson) let the Devell and the dog fight

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of old Hobson.

enter thou thy Diuell, and I will venter my
hogge : to conclude, the Dr. hide was torne
from the fellows back, and so their knave-
ries were discovered, and their cunning shifts
aid open to the world.

How Master Hobson allowed his wife two
men to wait on her to the market.

AS M. Hobson increased in riches, so in-
creased his wife in pride, in such sort that
she would seldome goe out of doores without
her man before her. Upon a time having bu-
sinesse to Cheap-side market, amongst many
other of her neighbours, the more to shew her
high and haughty stomack, desired of her hus-
band that she might have her man to attend
her : whs seeing her disposition, willingly con-
sented thereunto, and thereupon called two of
his lustiest men put them in armour with
two browne bills on their necks, placing one
before her, the other after, and so pro-
ceeded to send her forth to market : she in a
licenesse took such a displeasure hereat, that
for a moneth after she lay sick in her bed, and
could eate nothing but Caldwles made of
muskadine.

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10. How Master Hobson made a jest of
his mans name.

Of M. Hobsons Prentices by name
was called George Bacon, a near
kinsman of Sir Nicolas Bacon, L. Keeper
of England, a youth of much forwardness
and good government: neer unto M. Hobson
dwelled a Grocer, which had likewise to his
servant a youth, called by the name of George
Hogge, also of a good wit and a pleasant dispo-
sition: their two Prentices were great com-
panions, and spent much time together, where-
at M. Hobson being much displeased, called
the said George Hogge to him, saying, I mar-
vell my boy (quoth he) why thou keepest in
my man Bacon company, knowing him to be
Prentise but newly bound, and thou thy self
another mans servant: to whom replied this
George Hogge wisely saying: your man Ba-
con, Sir, is a neare kinsman of mine, and we
can by no means part friendship: How knab
(quoth M. Hobson) a kinsman of thine: let
me understand how it comes: marry thus an-
swered the boy, my name is Hogge, and he
is Bacon, two names that cannot chuse but
be of a kindred: Nay, not so my lad (quoth
M. Hobson) a hogge is no kinsman to Bacon

2 of old Hobson.

till he be hanged, and when thou art hanged,
thou shalt be my man Bacons kinsman, till
then thou art but a bare hogge : thus by the
best did M. Honson part their companies.

1. Of an Epitaph that Master Hobson made
for a dead man.

There was a very rich Citizen dwelling
not far from London Bri:ge) who in his
lifetime was never known to doe any deed
worthy of memory : who dying, left M. Hob-
son his only Executor, to dispose of his goods,
as also to lay upon his grave a faire marble
stone : and as upon marble stones there be
commonly ingraven certaine verses in the
manner of an Epitaph of the mans conversa-
tion thereunder bured, so M. Hobson consider-
ing what Epitaph he would set upon his
friends grave, knowing the few good deeds he
did in his life time, caused these two verses
following to be ingraven upon the marble
stone.

EPITAPH.

He was begotten, borne and cryed,
He lived a long time, fell sick and dyed.

As he was Laga

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12. How Master Hobson proved himselfe a Poet.

MAfter Hobson having occasion to ride into the wilde of Kent, where in that age Schollers were somewhat scarce, during the time of his tarryance there, there happened to be buried one John Medcaulfe, a very sufficient Farmer, upon whose grave was written these verses following, in faire Roman letters:

I desire ye in the Lords behalfe,
To pray for the soule of poore John Calfe.

Master Hobson noting the simplicity of the verses, writ underneath as followeth:

O thou death more subtile then a Fox,
Thou mightst a let this Calfe lived to be
an Oxe:

To have eate grasse, hay, and corne,
And like his sire to have worne a horne.

and of old Hobson.

13. How Master Hobson served an Inn-keepers wife.

Continuing in the wilde of Kent, M. Hobson being benighted in travel, it was his chance to happen into a very poore Inne, where was no more Beds in all the house but two, the one for the good man and his wife, the other for the Guests that came thither: and both these beds stood both in one Chamber: for indeed there was no more lodging roomes in all the Inne: M. Hobson having lupt, was lighted to bed by the Host himselfe, who like an unmannerly Chamberlaine set M. Hobson never a Chamberpot: which he looking for round the Chamber espied a wooden Bowle under the good mans bed, and a straining dish of the same fashion hanging up against the wall: the straining dish then M. Hobson takes and sets under the good mans bed, and removed the Chamber-bowle from thence, and sets it under his own. The good man and his wife, according to custome, came to bed without light. where they had not long laine but the good wife had occasion to make water and thereupon desired her husband to reach her the Chamber-bowle. the which he did as he thought, but being deceived

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by M. Hobson, he Gave her the straining dish, wherein when she had made water, it ran quite thorow upon her husband : goods my life (quoth the Good man) woman thou spildest over, no Husband, no (quoth she) it is not yet at my thumbe : which in my opinion, was a marke and custome they had : M. Hobson hereat could scarce sleep for laughing, but lay and spent the whole night with merry imaginations.

14. How Master Hobson found his Factor in France with a French Curtizan.

M After Hobson having in France a Factor which dealt for him in Merchandise, and lacking divers sorts of wares to furnish his Chapmen for Bristol faire, sent to his aforesaid Factor (being a merry conceited youth) for certaine matches of such commodities as were then most in request : he mistaking his Masters meaning, sent him all the matches used for Gunpowder that could be bought in France, the value of two thousand pounds worth : M. Hobson receiving them, and seeing himselfe matcht with a commodity of matches, thought all was not well in France, and that his man neglected his business there.

of old Hobson.

To know the truth thereof, the next morning very early, not revealing it to his Wife, in a night gowne, a buttoned cap, and a paire of Shippers, tooke Shipping at Billingsgate and passed over into France, where after some enquiry made of his mans life and conversation, he found him in a lewd house, revelling with a most gallant French Curtizan, whom M. Hobson after a smile or two saluted in this manner: What now knave: what a wenching knave: a rack and manger knave: bones of me cannot a snatch and away serbe your turn knave: is this the French wares you deale withall knave: his man seeing him selfe so taken napping, for a time stood amazed, not knowing what to say, but recovering his senses, he gave his Master this pleasant answer. Though Sir, this ware is a broken commodity, yet may we deale with them: being dealers with all wares, or rather Haberdashers of small wares, which is seldome lik'd of French Gentlewomen: M. Hobson at this pleasant answer could not chouse but pardon him, and so came they both over into England, where now this rack and manger is grown to a Proverbe.

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15. How Master Hobson got a patten for
the sale of his matches.

The Commodity of Matches which his
Factor sent him from France, being now of
sale, considering the little use for them, being
in time of peace, like a witty Citizen, Master
Hobson hies himseife to Court, being in the
rapes of our gracious Quéene Elizabeth, and
having a patten ready made for the sale of the
aforesaid matches, where so soone as he came
into the Quéenes presence, he knéeled downe,
and desired her grace to giue an assignement
to his Patten, declaring What it Was,
and the great losse he was like to sustaine by
that commodity; the Q. perceiuing for what
intent he came, and considering the benefit
that would come by such a grant, and mean-
ing to giue it to some Gentleman néere unto
her, as a recompence for his service, said un-
to M. Hobson, my friend (said the Q.) be con-
tent for thou shalt not haue thy patten sealed,
nor will I giue thee thy request: M. Hobson,
hearing the Q. denyall, said, I most heartily
thanke your Majestie, both I and all mine
are bound to thanke and pray for your High-
nesse: and low obeyssance, went his way: at
these h's words the Q. much marvelled, and
when

of old Hobson.

When he had gone a little from her, she caused him to be sent for back againe, whom when he was returned, the D. asked if he did well understand what answer her Grace did give him: yes truly said M. Hobson: What said I (quoth the D.) Harry your grace bid me be content for I should not have my desire, nor my patten sealed: why did you then (quoth the D.) give me such great thanks: because (said M. Hobson) your Grace gave me so speedy an answer, without either long suit, or losse of time, the which would have been to my very much harme and great hindrance, for I have at home a great charge of household to which I am bound in duty to looke diligently, and to provide carefully. The D. marking well the wisdom and discreet answer of M. Hobson, and now conceiving a new favour towards him, said now shall you give me twice thanks and have your patten sealed, and your desires performed that you sue for. So casting her eyes upon the Lord Chancellor, commanding the same by him to be done, which was accomplished with all speed whereby in short time he had quick sale of his commodity of matches to his hearts content, and his wealths great increase.

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16. Master Hobsons jest of ringing of the Bells upon the Queenes day.

UPon Sant Hewes day, being the 17. of November, upon which day the triumph was holden for Q. Elizabeths happy government, as bonafires ringing of bells, and such like, but in the Parish where Master Hobson dwelled he being Church-warden, was no ringing at all by reason the Steple was a-meyding, and the bells down and being asked by a servant of the Queenes house, why they ringed not: he answered because they had no bells in their Steple: Then quoth the Queens man, you may very well sell away your Steple: Why so, quoth M. Hobson, because quoth the other, it standeth empty and vacant: to whom M. Hobson replied againe, we may better sell away our Pulpit, for these twelue moneths was there neuer a Sermon in the same, and it rather stands empty and vacant. After this the Parson of the Church preached every Sunday following.

of old Hobson.

17. Of a Beggars answer to Master Hobson.

A poore beggar man, that was foule, black, and loathsome to behold, came on a time to M. Hobson, as he walked in poore fields, and asked some thing of him for an almes: to whom M. Hobson said, I pray thee fellow get from me, for thou lookest as thou cammest lately out of hell: the poore Beggar perceiving he would give him nothing, answered; forsooth Sir, you say true, for I came lately out of Hell indeed: why didst not thou tarry there still, quoth M. Hobson? Nay sir quoth the Beggar, there is no roome for such beggar men as I am, for all is kept for such Gentlemen Citizens as you be: this witty answer caused M. Hobson to give the poore man a teaster.

18. How long M. Hobsons daughter mourned for her husbands death.

MAfter Hobson had a Daughter which was a very faire young woman, who made great sorrow & lamentation for her husband that lay a dying: no meanes could comfort her: wherefore her father came to her and said, Daughter leave off your mourning,

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for if God take away your Husband, I will
speedily provide you another of great wealth
and credit as he is now of, and far more young
and lusty: but yet for all this, would she not
leave mourning and grew greatly displeased
that her Father made any motion of another
husband, protesting that she would never
marry more. But now marke the variable
minds of women: her husband was no sooner
dead and buried, the charges of his burfall paid
for, and she with her friends set at supper to
comfort her, betweene sobbing and weeping
she whispered her father in the eare and said:
Father, where is the man that you said should
be my Husband? What you may see (quoth
M. Hobson) the nature of Women kind, and
how long they mourne for their Husbands af-
ter they be dead: these words made the young
woman never after to aske her father for a
husband.

19. Master Hobson causing his man to
set up a signe.

M After Hobson having one of his Deen-
tills new come out of his time, and be-
ing made a free-man of London, desired to
set up for himselfe: so taking a house not far
from Saint Laurence Lane, furnished it with
store

210 of old Hobson.

I will fore of ware, and set the signe of the Maiden-
wealth head : hard by was a very rich man of the
young same trade, had the same signe, who reported
he not in every place where he came, that the young
leasd man had set up the same signe that he had one-
nother to get away his customers, and dayly ver-
neber to the young man therewithall, who being
triable riebed in mind told M. Hobson, his late Ma-
soner ter, who comminng to the rich man said, I
lt paid marvell sir, (quoth M. Hobson) why wrong
per to you my man so much as to say, he seeketh to
eping get away your customers, marry so he both
said : quoth the other) for he hath set up a signe
should alled the maiden-head as mine is, That is
quoth not so (replyed M. Hobson.) for this is the
; and Widdowes head, and no Maiden-head, there-
nds as- ore you doe him great wrong : the rich man
young ereupon seeing himself requited with mocks
for a ested satisfied, and never after that envied
M. Hobsons man, but let him live quietly.

to 19. Of M. Hobsons jest of a louse and a flea.
Upon a time M. Hobson going to my L.
Palors to dinner amongst the Libery of
is Company, and being waighted on by one
his Prentices, the said Prentise spyed a
ouse creeping upon the side of his Collon and
ot far like it off. M. Hobson espying him to doe
t with smething in secret, asking what it was : the
fellow

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fellow being ashamed, was loath to tell him
 but being importuned by his Master, said
 was a Louse : oh (quoth M. Hobson) this
 good luck : for it sheweth me to be a man, for
 this kind of vermine chiefly breedeth on man
 kind, and thereupon gave five shillings to his
 man for his labour : another of his Prentice
 being a pick-thanke knave, and having heard
 that his fellow had five shillings given him for
 taking a Louse off his Master, (having heard
 Colwin likewise on) and made as though he
 took a flea from the same, and conveyed it
 privily away : but when M. Hobson constrai-
 ned him to tell what it was, with much dis-
 sembling Hamfastnesse, he said it was a flea
 M. Hobson perceiuing his dissimulation, saide
 to him, what dost thou make me a dogge : for
 fleas be most commonly breed upon dogges
 and instead of his expected reward, he recei-
 ued fiftene stripes ; for said M. Hobson, there
 is a great difference between one that doth
 thing with a good mind, and him that doth
 thing by dissimulation.

21. How one of M. Hobsons men quitted him
 with a merry jest.

MAfter Hobson had a servant that he had
 long before made a free-man, and waileth
 still at M. Hobsons commandement, and doth
 him much good service, wherefore upon a time

of old Hobson.

he came unto his Master and said Sir, I have
said done you service long time justly and truly,
this wherefore I pray you bestow something upon
an, some to begin the world withall: fellow qd. Mr.
Hobson, thou sayst true, and thereon have I
to be thought many times to doe a good turne, now
ntice will I tell thee what thou shalt doe. I must
hear shortly ride to Bristow Faire, and if thou wilt
im to beare my charges thither, I will give thee such
ing be a thing, as shall be worth to thee an hundred l.
ugh I am content qd. the fellow; so all the way as
yed he rode, his man bore his charges, and payd
nstrator all things duly, till they came at the last
ch dislodging, and there after supper he came to his
a dead Master and said, Sir, I have borne your char-
n, saiges as you commanded me, now I pray you
re: so let me know what the thing is that will be
gges worth to me 100. pounds: did I promise thee
rece such a thing (qd. his Master:) you did, said the
r, then fellow: shew me in writing (qd. his Master)
doth I have none, said the fellow, then thou art
doth like to have nothing, qd. M. Hobson; and learn
this of me whensoever thou makest a bargain
with any man, loke that thou take a writing
for thy security and be well advised how thou
he ha givest thy bond to any man, this thing hath be-
d wa nefited me in my time 200. l. and so it may
nd will likewise doe thee: thus when the poore fellow
a time saw there was no remedy, he held himself con-
ten

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tent, and all that night pondred in his minde
 how to grow quittance with his master. so on
 morrow when his Master had dispatched his
 businelle in the Town, and was set forward
 back againe towards London, he tarried a
 little behind to reckon with the Hostis where
 he lay, and of her he borrowed as much mo-
 ney on his Masters cloake as came to all the
 charges that they spent by the way. M. Hob-
 son had not rode past 2. miles but that it be-
 gan to rain. whereupon he called for his cloake
 of another servant that rode by, who said that
 it was behind with his fellow, who had it with
 him: so they tooke shelter under a tree, till he
 overtooke them; when he was come, M. Hob-
 son most angerly said: thou knave, why com-
 mest thou not alway with my cloake: the fel-
 low answered. Sir and please you, I have laid
 it to pawn for your charges all the way; Why
 knave sd. M. Hobson, didst thou not promise
 to beare my charges to Britton? did I. quoth
 the fellow: yes, said M. Hobson, thou didst:
 shew me a writing thereof, saith the fellow,
 whereunto M. Hobson seeing himself so cum-
 ningly over reached, answered but little.

22. Of M. Hobsons riding to Sturbidge faire.

M After Hobson on a time in company of
 one of his neighbors, rode from Lon-
 don towards Sturbidge faire, so the first night

of old Hobson.

of their journey they lodged at Ware in an
inn where great store of company was, and
so on in the morning when every man made him
ready to ride, and some were on horseback set-
ting forward, the Citizen his neighbour found
him sitting at the Inn gate booted and spur-
red in a browne study, to whom he said, for
what name M. Hobson why sit you here, why doe
you not make your selfe ready to horseback
that we may set forward with company? M.
Hobson replied in this manner. I tarry (qd.
he) for a good cause: for what cause quoth his
neighbour: marry qd. M. Hobson, here be so
many horses, that I cannot tell which is my
horse, and I know well, when every man is
ridden and gon, the horse that remaineth be-
hind must needs be mine.

23 How M. Hobson found a farmers purse:
Here was a Farmer that lost 40. pounds
betwixt Cambridge and London, and
being so great a summe, he made proclamati-
on in all market toowns thereabout, that who-
soever had found 45. l. should have the five
pounds for his labour for finding it, and there-
fore he put in the 5. l. more then was lost: it
was M. Hobsons fortune to finde the same
summe of 40. l. and brought the same to the
mayor of Ware, and required the 5. l. for
his paines, as it was proclaimed: when the
Country,

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Farmer understood this, and that he must needs pay five pounds for the finding, he said, that there was in y^e purse 45. l. and so would he have his money and five pounds over : so long they strove, that the matter was brought before a Justice of peace, which was then one M. Fleetwood, who after was the Recorder of London : but when M. Fleetwood understood by the Bayliffe, that the proclamation was made for a purse of 45. l. he demanded where it was, here qd. the Bailly, and gave it him : it is just 40. l. said M. Fleetwood ; truly (qd. the Bayliffe :) here M. Hobson said M. Fleetwood, take you this money for it is your owne, and if you chance to finde a purse of 45. l. bring it to this honest Farmer thats mine. qd. the Farmer, for I lost just 40. l. you speake too late (qd. M. Fleetwood,) Thus the farmer lost the money, and Master Hobson had it according to justice.

24. How Master Hobson was a judge betwixt two women.

There dwelled not far from Mr. Hobson two very ancient Women, the youngest of them both was about 60. years of age, and upon a time sitting at the Taberne together they grew at variance, which of them should be the youngest, as Women indeed desire to be accounted younger then they be, in such

man

of old Hobson.

must manner that they layd a good supper, of the
said, value of 20. s. for the truth thereof; M. Hob-
ould for they agreed upon to be their Judge of y
r: so difference: so after M. Hobson had know-
ought edge thereof, the one came to him, and as a
n one present gave him a very faire pigeon pie worth
order some 5. s. desiring him to passe the verdit on
nder her side: with in a while after the other came:
ation and gave M. Hobson a very faire greyhound,
under which kinde of dogges he much delighted in:
abe it praying him likewise to be favourable on her
; yes side, wherefore he gave judgement that the
bison Woman that gave him the Grayhound was y
ey for younger. and so she won the supper of 20. s.
inde which she perceiuing, came to him and said,
mer Sir, I gave you a Pidgion ppe. and you pro-
t just mised the verdit should goe on my side: to
ood, whom M. Hobson said, of a truth good wo-
Mafce man, there came a Gray-hound into my house
and eat up the pigeon ppe, & so by that meanes
be- I quite forgot thee.

25. Of the pride of M. Hobsons wife.

obson
angel
e, and
ether
shoul
are t
suc
man
M After Hobsons wife carrying something
a stately mind, and delighting in brave
apparell, upon a time walking abroad with o-
ther Women her neighbours, they espyed a
paire of silke stockings upon her legs, and de-
siring the like, neber let their husbands to liue
quiet after, till they had silke stockings of the
same

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same fashion : so within a weeke. or two following, their husbands came complaining M. Hobson, and said, Sir, (qd. one of them) suffrance of your Wifes pride, hath spoyle all ours, for since she hath worne like Rocking, our wives have grown so importunate that they must needs have the like, and you are the chiefeest cause in suffering her to wear the same : O god my neighbours qd. M. Hobson) I have great cause in doing so, and it brings me much quietnesse, as how (qd. one of them, marry thus (neighbours) for seeing I cannot please her above the knee, I must needs please her below the knee, and the onely tasing to please a woman is to let her have her will.

26. Of Master Hobsons rewarding a Poet for a books dedication.

UPon New-years day, M. Hobson sitting at dinner in a Poets company. or as you may terme him, a writer of Histories there came a poore man and presented him a couple of Dringes, which he kindly took as a New-peers gift, and gave the poore man for the same an Angell of Gold and thereupon gave them to his Wife to lay up among other Jewels, considering they had likewise cost him an Angell the which she did, the Poet sitting by, and marking the bounty of M. Hobson

of old Hobson.

son for so small a matter, he went home and devised a book containing 40. sheets of paper, which which was halfe a yeare in writing, and came & gave it to M. Hobson in dedication, and thought in his minde, that he in the recompencing the poore man so much for an Orange, would yeld far more recompence for his booke, being so long in studying. M. Hobson took the Poets Booke thankfully, and perceiving he did it only for his bounty, shewed for the Orange given him, wiled his Wife to fetch the said Orange, being then almost rotten, and gave to the Poet, saying, here is a Jewell which cost me a thousand times the worth in Gold, therefore I thinke thou art well satisfied for thy books dedication: the Poet seeing this went his way ashamed.

17. How M. Hobson gave one of his servants the halfe of a blind mans benefit.

M After Hobson seeing still very good to the poore, and most bountifull to aged people, there came to him usually twice or thrice a week, a silly poore old blinde man to sing under his window, for which he continually gave him 12. pence a time. M. Hobson having one of his servants so churlish, and withall so covetous, that he would suffer the blind man to come no more, unlesse he shared halfe his benefit, the which the blinde singing man was forc'd to give, rather then to lose all: after twice or thrise parting shares, M. Hobson had thereof intelligence, who consult-

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ing with the blind man. serued his seruant in this manner ; still he looked for halfe whatsoeuer he got, so this at last was M. Hobsons gift, who gave commandement that the blind man should haue for his singing threescore jerks with a sufficient Whip, and to be equally parted as the other Gifts were the which were presently given the blind mans was very easie, but M. Hobsons mans were very sound ones, so that ebery Jerke drew blood, after this he neuer sought to diminish his Masters bounty.

28 How M Hobson found out the pie-Dealer.

In Christmas holy dayes when M. Hobson his wife had many pies in the Oven, one of his seruants had stole one of them out, and at y^e Wylke had merrily eaten it : it fortun'd y^e same day some of his seruants dined with him, and one of the best pies were missing, the stealer whereof after dinner he found out in this manner : he called all his seruants in friendly sort together vnto the hall, and caused each of them to drinke one to another, both Wine Ale and beere till they were all drunke, then caused he a table to be furnished with very good cheare, whereat he likewise pleased them ; being set altogether, he said. why sit you not down fellows, we be se already qd. they. Nay qd. M. Hobson he that stole the pie is not yet set, yes that I doe, quoth he that stole it, by which meames he knew what was then become of the pee, for the poore fellow

of old Hobson.

in this low being drunke could not keepe his owne se-
cret.

19, Of M. Hobson and a Docter of Physick.

Upon a time when M. Hobson lay sick, and
in very great paine, there came unto him a
D. of Physick that told him he could not escape,
but must needs dye of that sicknesse. M. H. b. son a
while after, not by the D. helpe, but by the will
of God recovered, and was whole of his disease,
yet was he very low, and bare brought and as he
walked forth one day, he met the said D. which
doubting whether he was the sick man or no, said
M. Hobson are not you Sir, the man called M. Hobson? yes
of his selfe; (qd. he) are you alive or dead, said the D.
I am dead qd. M. Hobson: what doe you here
then said the Doctor? I am here qd. M. H. b. son.
because I have experience in many Earthly
things, and God hath sent me to the World a-
bout, with a commandement to take up all phy-
sitions I can get, and send them thither to him,
which made him look pale, M. Hobson seeing this,
drew unto him, feare not M. Doctor, though I said
a while agoe, Physicians, you are none; & there is no man
that hath wit, will take you for one, & therefore
either, you are not in my charge: farewell.

How M. Hobson answered a popish Frier.

In the Reigne of Q. Mary, when this Land
was builded with superstition, there was a po-
pish Frier that made an Oracion in the Charter
house yerd, where many formes were placed.

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of people, to heare the same. Question, amongst
which number, there sat M. Hobson, which muni-
crtelling him that was then Pope of Rome, com-
paring him to St. Peter, for in degree he ranked
him above all the holy Fathers in time past, and
Doctors, Martirs, Prophets, yea and above mo:
then Prophets, John Baptists: then (said he) in
what high place shall we place this good man
what place I say, is fit for him or where shall he
sit: M. Hobson hearing him speake so profane-
ly, and sitting among the Audience, start up and
said, if thou canst finde no other place, set him
here in my place, for I am weary, and so went
his way.

31. How Master Hobson won a wager in making
a Knight to laugh.

There was a Knight dwelling in London
that for the death of his Wife would not be
comforted, nor of many dayes was once seen
smile; upon a time the Chamberlaine to the
Knight, being in company with M. Hobson, laid
a wager of 40. shillings with him, that he should
not make the Knight laugh by any meanes that
he could see, whereupon the match was made
and the money staked down, for the winning
the same. M. Hobson gets him an ill-favoured
spawny bitch almost starved, and fills her be-
with so much butter-milke and whey, that
seemed to burst: so coming into the presence
of the Knight, he held the bitch so

of old Hobson.

on the mouth and nose, that through the stopping
of her winds, and her belly being so overcharged
with buttermilke, that so strained her, that she
filled all the Knights Chamber: herent y^e Cham-
berlaine grew so angry, that he said he would
make old Hobson make it cleane. so put his nose
into it: not so Chamberlaine, said M. Hobson, I
will not take your offit out of your hand, for it
is your duty to make cleane the chamber: here-
at the Knight laughed very heartily, and so M.
Hobson won the wager of the Chamberlaine.

32 How M. Hobson answered Musicians.

Upon a time M. Hobson lying in S. Albones,
there came certain Musicians to play at his
chamber doore, to the intent as they filled his
eares with their musick, he should fill their pur-
ses with money: where when he had one of the
servants of the Inn (that waited upon him) to
goe and tell them, that he could not then endure
to heare their musick, for he mourned for the
death of his mother, so the Musicians disappoint-
ed of their purpose, went sadly all away. The
fellow heard him speake of mourning, asked him
how long agoe it was since he buried his mother,
truly qd. M. Hobson it is now very neere forty
yeeres agoe. the fellow understanding very well
his subtilty and how wittily he sent away the
Musicians, laughed very heartily.

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33. Of M. Hobsons teaching a Cow to spake.

Vpon a time M. Hobson being in company of a London Alderman, and being merrily disposed took ten pounds of the said Alderman, upon this condition, that if he made not a Cow to spake in ten yeares, and to read per sect English, he would have for the same a hundred: the match being made, with in few dapes after came one of his Neighbours and said he was unwise, and that he undertook a thing impossible, & that every body laughed him to scorn: to whom M. Hobson smiled and said, neighbour, I am nothing afraid of loosing my hundred, for in the space of ten yeares, either I, the Cow, or else M. Alderman may dye.

34. M. Hobsons teaching his man to use money.

MAfter Hobson had a servant so covetous, and withall so simple witted, that all the money he could get together hid in the Ground, of the which M. Hobson having some intelligence, fell a conjuring in this manner; With a Wand he so belaboured my young man that he presently revealed where it lay: the which sum of money M. Hobson tooke quite away all, saving a small summe, the which the poore fellow put to so good a use in bying and selling, that in short time he greatly increased it: When M. Hobson understood what he had done, & what good use he put his money to, he said, Sirra, you can tell how to use money, and learne to make prophet there-

of old Hobson.

hereof, I will restore to thee all againe, and so he
did, which made the fellow ever after a good
husband.

35. How M. Hobson flouted a Jester.

Vpon a time M. Hobson dined with a compa-
ny of merry fellows; amongst whom there
was one that found much fault with his merry
ests, and as the company sat laughing and sport-
ing together, they asked one another which was
the most reverent part of a mans body one said
the eye, and another said the nose, another said
the hand; but M. Hobson said the mouth was the
most reverent part. Marry said the fellow that
was the finde-fault, the part that we sit on is y
most reverent part: and because the company
marvelled why he made this reason, marry (qd.
the fellow, he is most reverent among the com-
mon people, that is first still set, which saying
contented them all, and caused much laughter
amongst them; and he that spoke it was not a
little proud of his saying, in that he had over-
come (as he thought in wit) M. Hobson: this
passed on, the next night following, they were
bidden againe to supper to the same place, where
M. Hobson remembered the former jest of this
tossing fellow: thereupon he turned his back-
side toward him, and saluted him with a great
hart against his face, the fellow disdainig his
rude salutation, said, ill nurtur'd old knave,
where wast thou brought up: why disdainest

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thou this (qu. M. Hobson) if I had saluted thee with my mouth, thou wouldest have found fault as an inferiour part and now I greet thee with that part of my body, which by thine owne saying is the most reverent, thou art displeased thus gat M. Hobson againe the praise that he had lost before, & the poore fellow was laughed at of the whole company.

36. Of M. Hobsons sore eyes, and his answer to the Physitians.

Upon a time, when M. Hobson had sore eyes another Physitian came to him thinking to have some recompence for his counsell, warning him that he should in any case forbear drinking or else by the same lose his eyes: to whom M. Hobson said, it is much more pleasure for me to lose my eyes with drinking, then to keep them for worms to eat them up. Another time a Physitian came to M. Hobson and said, Sir, you looke well, and grieve at nothing, and have a healthfull countenance. Thus (qu. M. Hobson) for I have not to doe with any Physitians, nor with Physick: to whom he replied, Sir, said he, you have no cause to blame the Physitian, for his Physick never did you hurt. Thou sayest true qu. M. Hobson) for if I had proved Physick, I had not been here alive. Another Physitian came to him on a time and said, Sir, you be very old man: very true, (quoth M. Hobson) for these wert never my Physitian: such manner

of old Hobson.

cheks and flouts would he still geve to them
that spake to him of physick, for in his life he ne-
ver tooke any.

37 How Master Hobson sold charmes for the
Plague.

Vpon a time in London, when great plagues
was suspected to come, the common people
went daily in great number to Physitians to
prevent it. M^r. Hobson seeing their simplicity,
and the doubt they had of Gods mercie, went a-
bout to hinder the Physitians, whereupon he not
only gave out speeches to his neighbours, but in
most parts of the City, saying, that he had little
writings fast sealed up, had such a vertue, that
whosoever bore it hanging about his neck 15.
daies should not die of y^e plague: the foolish people
trusting hereupon every ons after his power,
gave him money for a scrowle or writing sealed
up, with a thred of silke about it, charging them
that they should not open it, till it hung about
their necks for the space of fifteene daies, for if
they tooke it away afore that time, it was of no
certue. Within a while after, the desire of folkes
was to know the contents of these writings: so
on opening of them they found these lines writ: y^e
womens charme for the plague was this.

Woman when thou stoopest low, this lesson thou
shalt finde,

Take heed of thy hinder part, for breaking too
much winde.

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And to such men that were so simple-witted as to beleefe his merry perswasions, and thereupon would fondly bestow their money, he gave like wise this charme in writing :

Man that drinketh late over night take counsell by a foole : When thou risest pray unto God, thou mayst have a good stoole.

This was all the skill that M. Hobson had, the greatest helpe he could teach them : but this merry medicine of his made the ruder sort more wise, and not after that time so vainly to cast away their money.

38. How M. Hobsons jest of the sign of S. Christopher.

MAfter Hobson and another of his neighbours on a time walking to Southwarke faire, by chance drunke in a house at the signe of S. Christopher, of the which sign the Good man of the house gave this commendation, S. Christopher (qd. he) when he lived upon earth, bore the greatest burthen that ever was, which was this he bore Christ over a river : nay there was one (qd. S. Hobson) that bore a greater burden : who was that (qd. the In-keeper) marry (qd. S. Hobson) the Ass that bore both him and his mother : so was the In-keeper tailed Ass by craft. After this talking merrily together, the aforesaid In-keeper being a little whittled, or gone with drinke, and his head so giddy, that he fell into y^e fire, people standing by, ran suddenly and tooke

him

of old Hobson.

riuer, may there was one (quoth M. Hobson) that boze a greater burthen, who was that (quoth the In-keeper) marry, quoth M. Hobson, the asse that boze both him and his mother : so was the In-keeper called asse by craft. After this talking merrily together, the aforesaid In-keeper beeing a litte whittled, or gone with drinke, and his head so giddy that he fell into the fire, people standing by, ran sodainly and toke him vp, oh let him alone (quoth M. Hobson) a man may do what he will in his owne house, and lye wheresoeuer he listeth ; the man hauing little hurt, with this fright grew immediately sober, and afterward forced M. Hobson & his neighbour so exceedingly, that comming ouer London brdg, being very late, ran against one of the chaine-polls, at which M. Hobson thinking it to be some men that had iustled him, drew out his dudgion dagger, and thrust it vp euen to the very hilts into the hollow poll, wherupon verily he had thought he had killed some man : so running away was taken by the watch, and so all the jest was discovered:

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39. Of Maister Hobsons answere to a messenger of the Lord Maiors.

VPon a time M. Hobson had arrested one of my Lord Maiors kinsmen for a certayne debt owing him, and being in the Counter, my Lord Maior sent one of his Officers for to intreat M. Hobson to be fauorable & kind vnto his kinsman, telling a long tale, and to little purpose, whom M^{ast}. Hobson answered in this maner: my friend (quoth he) what thou saidst in the beginning I doe not like of, and what was in the middle I doe not wel remember, and for thy conclusion, I vnderstand it not: and this was all the fauour M. Hobson shewed to my Lord Maiors kinsman.

40. How Maister Hobson bade an Alderman to dinner.

THIS M. Hobson on a time had a seruant that was full of words, and too much talkatiue, beeing offended therewith hee gaue him in charge, to say nothing, and to answere to that he was demanded and no more: so vpon a day M.
Hobson

of old Hobson.

Hobson made a great dinner, and sent his said servant some two dayes before to invite an Alderman of London thereunto, so upon the day when dinner time came, all the guests staid for the Aldermans coming till two of the clocke, and at last M. Hobson said unto his servant: didst thou bid M. Alderman to dinner? yes truly said hee, why commeth he not then, quoth M. Hobson? quoth the fellow, he said he could not; why toldst thou mee not so, quoth M. Hobson? because said the fellow you did not ask me? Hereupon (though long first) they went all to dinner, and being merry together drinking of Wine, there came in a certaine Russian and stole one of the fairest silver cups away: the which the fellow seeing, said never a word but let him goe, which when M. Hobson missed, hee demanded of his servant where it was: Sir, quoth the fellow, a theefe came in and stole it away: why didst thou not stay him (quoth M. Hobson?) marry sir, quoth he, because he asked no question of me: after this, M. Hobson noting the simplenesse of his servant, let him haue his tongue at free liberty.

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41. How M. Hobson grew out of loue with an Image.

In the raigne of Q. Mary when great Superstition was vled in England, as creeping to the crosse, worshipping of Images, and such like: it was Past. Hobsons chance amongst other people to bee in the Church, and kneeling to an Image to pray, as it was then vled, the same Image by some mishap fell downe on M. Hobson and broke his head, vpon which occasion hee came not thither in halfe a yeare after, but at length by the procurement of his neighbours hee came to the Church again, and because he saw his neighbours knéele befoze the same Image, hee knéeled downe likewise, and said thus, well I may cap and knéele to thee, but thou shalt neuer haue my heart againe so long as I liue: meaning so, the broken head it had giuen him.

42. How M. Hobson said he was not at home.

On a time M. Hobson vpon some occasion came to M. Fleetwoods house to

of old Hobson.

to speak with him being then newly chosen
the Recorder of London, and asked one
of his men if he were within, he said he
was not at home, but M. Hobson percei-
uing that his master had him say so, and
that he was within, not being willing (at
that time) to be spoken withall, for that
time dissembling the matter he went his
way: Within a few dayes after it was
M. Fleetwoods chance to come to M. H.
Hobsons, and knocking at the doore, asked
if he were within: M. Hobson hearing
and knowing how he was deuyed M.
Fleetwoods speech before time, spake
himselfe aloud and said: he was not at
home; then said M. Fleetwood, what M.
Hobson think you that I know not your
voice, whereunto M. Hobson answered
and said: Now M. Fleetwood I am quit
with you: for when I came to speake
with you, I beleeued your man that said
you were not at home, and now you wil
not beleene mine owne selfe: and this
was the merry conference betwixt these
two merry Gentlemen.

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43. How he answered a Scriuener of the
oid religion.

VPon a time, what with age, and
misioieting himselfe he took so great
a sicknesse, that he grew in danger of
death, wherebpon a Scriuener dwelling
by was sent for, who sauozing somewhat
of the popish religiō, councelled M. Hob-
son to take the Sacrament, which is, said
the Scriuener, the very body and bloud
of Iesus Christ: to whom M. Hobson re-
plied being then vpon a Fryday, oh neigh-
bor (quoth he) I will eate no flesh on fa-
sting dayes: the Scriuener hearing him-
selfe flouted of the sicke man, moued to
him no further questions, but fell to ma-
king of his Will, as followeth.

44. Of maister Hobsons last Will and
Testament.

In the name of God Amen: I Maister
Hobson the merry Londoner, whole of
mind, but sicke of body, do here make my
last will and testament, in manner and
forme following. First I g'ue my soule
to

of old Hobson.

to God, for that is his: my life to death, for he spares no man: and my body to the worms, for that is their nourishment: all my lands, tenements and moveables, to my wife and children, reserving a few legacies, which I meane to bestow on the World.

I give to all Gentlemen such a desire of price, that shortly an outlandish broker by them, shall be held more in request then an English Tayler, and that London Citizens shall grow wealthy by the fall of riotous Courtiers: also I give and bequeath to London Merchant wines, that they shall carry the mindes of Ladies of the Court, every moneth sicke of a new fashion. Also I bequeath that Country Farmers wines shall be in the fashion of the home buske, and silke girdles. Likewise, to Chamber-maides, and waiting Gentlewomen, I give all my huge poaking stiches, and French periwigs: But as for my smaller sort of poaking stiches, I bequeath to the modest sort of Citizens wines. Also I bequeath to all Wenches above thirtene yeares of age, gold Hatbands, changeable faze-parts, and silke girdles: and to

The pleasant Conceits &c.

to young married men, I giue all my yel-
low garters: points and shoe-strings, all
of a sutable colour: and to Kitchen maids
that scowre pots, and scrape trenchers,
all my washt gloves and silke laces: and
to all country dairie wenches, that ride
to London markets with cream and but-
ter-milke, all my maskes, wyper-busks,
and silke coloured scarfes: and to con-
clude, to all England I bequeath the
pride and fashions of all other Nations:
and if any will further vnderstand what
other gifts old Hobson the merry Londo-
ner hath bestowed, inquire at his graue
at S. Mildreds Church in the Poultry
in London, where he now lieth buried.

FINIS.

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